

Motivation Statement
CIRRUS board 2019-2022

With this letter I express my admiration for CIRRUS and great motivation to work for the advancement of this international network. Estonian Academy of Arts participates in different educational networks, but CIRRUS has always stood out as a most fruitful one for cooperation and open discussions between the students, teachers, deans and administrators. The friendly and to-the-point spirit of CIRRUS events has been truly remarkable.

About myself: I am a graphic designer and have been educated in Estonia, USA and the Netherlands, became a dean of the Faculty of Design at the Estonian Academy of Arts in 2016, and am currently involved in reforming our design curricula. I'm applying for the board of CIRRUS, since I believe in cooperation and exchange of knowledge to be the only way to effectively develop our increasingly international design education.

As a person I'm quick-witted, open and mindful, which I consider extremely important when working with people. Having graduated from high-school in Soviet Estonia in 1991, studied extensively abroad, witnessed the development of our a newly restored republic in 1990s and 2000s, I've seen very different cultural, economic and human perspectives. I've also been involved in teaching design on all levels of education – from kindergarten to PhD. I have a first-hand experience with work in business, governmental and NGO environment. I have a passion towards finding new ways of doing things, combining knowledge from different fields. Therefore, I think, I will be a good team member also for CIRRUS.

Estonian Academy of Arts has served as a coordinator of the network for several years during which many new initiatives – summer schools and rapid growth of express mobility among others – have taken place.

My goals as CIRRUS board member:

1. Since the EAA holds strong positions in several Nordic-Baltic design education networks e.g KUNO for fine arts, and Nordic-Baltic network for Architecture, I will stand for dialogue and possible cooperation between and with these networks.
2. I will stand for developing meaningful relationships and projects with other educational networks (Cumulus, ELIA, etc.)
3. I will stand for developing new courses and projects through Nordplus network and beyond for students and teachers of the network.
4. I will make sure that the academic staff will have an ongoing opportunity to meet and talk, discuss new ideas and projects during fruitful CIRRUS seminars.
5. I will help to realise the idea of initiating advisory teams (consisting of specialists from our different schools) which the members of the network could summon to consult on different acute topics: curriculum reforms, international studies development, MA-quality assurance, digital technologies and e-studies development etc.
6. I will help to generate debate about the challenges facing design education in 21st century: global warming, political changes, economic constraints, changes caused by constantly evolving technology (total digitalisation, Internet of Things, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, etc).

I'm genuinely motivated to be part of CIRRUS board in the next phase.

Sincerely,



Kristjan Mändmaa
Dean of Faculty of Design, Estonian Academy of Arts